



NEWS RELEASE

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**'LA-INDIA CONNECT' SHORT FILM COMPETITION WINNERS ANNOUNCED
AT THE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL OF INDIA, GOA**
Winners to intern with Fox Star Studios and Disney- UTV

Goa: On November 21, the LA India Film Council announced the winners of the 'LA-India Connect' online short film competition at the 43rd International Film Festival of India (IFFI), Goa. The competition aimed to encourage emerging filmmakers in India and Los Angeles and was judged by a jury of high - profile film industry representatives from Los Angeles and India. The winners of the competition, Piyush Shah from the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) and Manish Sharma from the Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute (SRFTI) won USD 1,000 each for their films 'Loops' and 'Kharratey'. Chirag Mehra from the Asian School of Media Studies (ASMS) won the 'Most Popular Film Award' for his film 'The Blind Date'.

Announcing the winners, Uday Singh, Managing Director, MPDA (India) and Chairman of the LA India Film Council said, "I would like to congratulate the winners and all the participants of the LA-India Connect competition. Young talent need a global platform to showcase their creativity and this competition was the right step in that direction."

The films were based on the theme 'Hollywood - Bollywood'. Each entry of no more than ten minutes in duration was judged on the participant's ability to create a film that bypasses geographical boundaries and appeals to a global audience.

Piyush Shah's film 'Loops' revolves around a man who is trying to break free from the monotonous cycle of life. 'Kharratey' by Manish Sharma is based on a director's attempt to capture the perfect shot. 'The Blind Date' with maximum votes on YouTube is based on a young visually challenged protagonist who feels attracted to a young girl sitting at the next table in a restaurant.

Vijay Singh, CEO, Fox Star Studios said, "The LA-India Connect short-film competition is a great opportunity for students to showcase their skills and push the boundaries of their creativity. We need more such platforms to help build future talent. "

"Such a competition is a great initiative and an excellent opportunity to empower the younger generation to meet their creative ambitions.", said Siddharth Roy Kapur, Managing Director - Studios, DisneyUTV.

The competition was supported by Pocket Films, the short film division of 1takemedia.com, India's leading aggregator and distributor of alternative content and the Ramanaidu Film School, Hyderabad.

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About the LA India Film Council: Established in November of 2010 by a Joint Declaration between the City of Los Angeles and the Indian Film Industry, the Los Angeles India Film Council was formed to facilitate and strengthen motion picture production, distribution, technology, content protection, and commercial cooperation between the two communities. The current Governing council members are: Film Federation Of India, Film and Television Producers Guild of India, National Film Development Corporation, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, AP Film Chambers, California Film Commission, Office of the Mayor of the City of Los Angeles , MovieLabs, Technicolor India, DQ Entertainment, Reliance MediaWorks, Prime Focus, Peter Law Group, Whistling Woods International, Film and Television Institute of India, University of Southern California- School of Cinematic Arts, UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television and Motion Picture Dist. Association (India) Pvt. Ltd. For more information, visit: www.laindiafilmcouncil.org.

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ABOUT THE MPDA: The Motion Picture Dist. Association (India) Pvt. Ltd. (MPDA) is a wholly owned local office of the Motion Picture Association, and represents the interests of the American motion picture industry in India. MPDA works closely with local industry, government, law enforcement authorities and educational institutions to promote and protect the Indian film and television industry.

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ABOUT THE MPA: PROMOTING & PROTECTING SCREEN COMMUNITIES IN ASIA PACIFIC :The Motion Picture Association (MPA) and the Motion Picture Association International (MPA-I) represent the interests of the six international producers and distributors of filmed entertainment. To do so, they promote and protect the intellectual property rights of these companies and conduct public awareness programs to highlight to movie fans around the world the importance of content protection. These activities have helped to transform entire markets benefiting film and television industries in each country including foreign and local filmmakers alike. The organizations act on behalf of the members of the Motion Picture Association of America, Inc (MPAA) which include; Paramount Pictures Corporation; Sony Pictures Entertainment Inc.; Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation; Universal City Studios LLC; Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures; and Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc. The MPA and the MPA-I have worldwide operations which are directed from their head offices in Los Angeles and Washington, D.C. and overseen in the Asia Pacific by a team based in Singapore.

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